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Sport for development and peace

Letter dated 18 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the final declaration of the international sports congress entitled "Asian Games 2017: International Sports Cooperation for Peace and Development", which was held on 7 April 2017 in the Awaza national touristic zone, Turkmenistan (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 11.

(Signed) Aksoltan Ataeva
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 18 April 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Final declaration of the international sports congress entitled "Asian Games-2017: International Sports Cooperation for Peace and Development"

We, participants at the international sports congress entitled "Asian Games-2017: International Sports Cooperation for Peace and Development", meeting in the Awaza national touristic zone, Turkmenistan, on 7 April 2017,

Reaffirming our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Olympic Charter,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of sport in strengthening peace and security and ensuring sustainable development, and *noting* the importance of international sports cooperation in creating an atmosphere of understanding among peoples and States,

Considering that the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly¹ proclaiming 6 April the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, and the decision of the World Health Assembly² to declare 7 April World Health Day, created a solid political and legal basis for the development of sport and the establishment of the principles of a healthy lifestyle,

Noting the need to strengthen and further coordinate the efforts of the international community to maximize the potential of sport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,

Underlining the role of the Olympic Games, the Asian Games, the All Africa Games, the European Games, the Pacific Games and the Pan American Games in promoting worldwide peace and development, social well-being, health and youth education,

Recognizing the importance of continental sports competitions such as the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games,

Commending the decision of the Olympic Council of Asia to hold the fifth Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat in September 2017,

Emphasizing the fact that national teams from the countries of Oceania will participate for the first time in the fifth Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat,

Being convinced that major international sports events should be organized in a spirit of peace, mutual understanding, friendship, and respect,

1. *Declare* that sport is an important enabler of sustainable development, and *recognize* the growing contribution of sport to the achievement of peace and development, since international partnership in the field of sport promotes affirmation of the principles of mutual trust and respect among peoples and States, contributes to the empowerment of people, and creates the most favourable conditions for the development of the individual;

¹ General Assembly resolution 67/296.

² Resolution of the World Health Assembly WHA/A.2/Res.35.

2. *Call upon* countries of the world to make effective use of all the opportunities offered by sport and by its values in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;³

3. *Urge* the United Nations, the International Olympic Committee, and sports-related international, continental and regional councils, organizations, federations and associations to intensify collaboration in order to promote the lofty ideals and principles of the international Olympic movement;

4. *Invite* all countries to adopt best practices to promote the practice of sport and physical culture in society, and in this regard *welcome* initiatives to proclaim at the national level dedicated health, youth and sports days, including specialized sports days, as a means of promoting physical and mental health;

5. *Express appreciation* for the valuable contribution of Turkmenistan to international efforts to promote peace and development through sport and the Olympic ideal;

6. *Call upon* States of Asia and Oceania to participate actively in the fifth Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games to be held in Ashgabat in September 2017 in order to promote the principles of the Olympic movement in the Asian continent, raise the international standing of countries, develop sport in different regions of the world and enhance the moral and physical qualities of athletes in a spirit of mutual respect, friendship and fair play;

7. *Support* the proposal of the Government of Turkmenistan to host, under the aegis of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the seventh International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport;

8. *Express deep gratitude* to the President of Turkmenistan for his proactive stance on the issues of strengthening international sports cooperation, as well as appreciation to the Government of Turkmenistan for the excellent organization and hosting of the International Sports Congress entitled "Asian Games-2017: International Sports Cooperation for Peace and Development", and to the people of Turkmenistan for their generosity and warm hospitality extended to the participants of the Congress.

7 April 2017, Awaza national touristic zone,
Turkmenistan

³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.